

## REMARKS

*Amendments*

New claims 16-20 specify a particular PAS kinase domain or PAS protein already recited in claims 11 and 12. These amendments introduce no new matter.

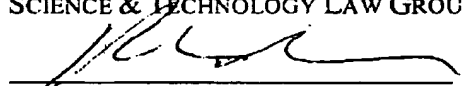
*Election*

We elect group III (changing the kinase activity of a PAS domain); species (A.) (PAS kinase PAS A); and (G.) host cell; with traverse.

The claims are all directed to the same method of changing binding specificity of a PAS domain by (a) introducing into the hydrophobic core of the PAS domain a foreign ligand of the PAS domain; and (b) detecting a resultant change in the functional surface binding specificity of the PAS domain. Dependent claims just recite species of the recited PAS domain: the method is unchanged, and still requires the same two steps regardless of the PAS domain species. The Action incorporates canned sentences citing search burden, different steps, and different results, but makes no specific analysis or findings relevant to our claims. We recognize that this type of restriction analysis is not unique to this Examiner, but is paradigmatic of what restriction practice has devolved. If the cited groups all truly define "separate and distinct inventions", the phrase has lost any nexus to the literal meaning of its words.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned with any suggestions for amending the claims or further clarifying any of the foregoing. We petition for and authorize charging our Deposit Account No.19-0750 all necessary extensions of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overcharges relating to this communication to our Dep. Acct. No.19-0750 (order UTSD:1510-1).

Respectfully submitted,  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW GROUP



Richard Aron Osman, J.D., Ph.D., Reg. No. 36,627  
Tel (949) 218-1757; Fax (949) 218-1767

"To Help Our Customers Get Patents"  
Mission Statement, USPTO External Customer Services Guide